



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding your request for updates on the Commission's efforts to implement the National Verifier for Lifeline Eligibility.

As you know, the 2016 Lifeline Order established the National Verifier to be responsible for determining subscriber eligibility for the Lifeline program by connecting to state and federal databases. I am deeply committed to ensuring that the Commission fulfills its obligation to be a responsible steward of the Universal Service Fund. Accordingly, the Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the universal service programs, including Lifeline, have spent considerable time and resources developing a system that is designed to interact with multiple federal and state resources to create a Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED). This database, along with the existing National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD), form the National Verifier.

Commission staff have been deeply involved in reviewing USAC's National Verifier development and implementation plans to ensure the National Verifier is implemented in a cost-effective manner that will create a more effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible program. Commission staff support the National Verifier project by overseeing the development of National Verifier processes to ensure compliance with the Lifeline rules and applicable laws; entering into data sharing agreements with existing data sources to enable the National Verifier to cost-effectively verify subscribers' eligibility; updating the Lifeline program's System of Records Notice, Paperwork Reduction Act approvals, Records Schedule, and Privacy Impact Assessment to incorporate the National Verifier; and reviewing procurements related to the National Verifier, when appropriate. Per your request, attached is an update prepared by USAC of key milestones accomplished in preparation for the launch of the National Verifier in the last quarter.

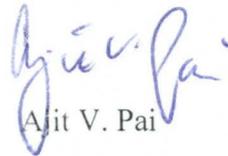
USAC and the FCC recently announced that upon its initial launch in December 2017, the National Verifier will verify eligibility for consumers in six states – New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Mississippi, Wyoming, and Montana. The initial launch states currently include approximately 327,000 Lifeline subscribers. In order to meet the benchmark set in the 2016 Lifeline Order of launching in a minimum of 25 states or territories by December 2018, the National Verifier will need to be launched in at least 19 additional states/territories next year. USAC continues to work to identify states that will be ready to launch in 2018, evaluating in

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particular the cost-effectiveness of building automated connections, as well as the technical readiness and willingness of the state to work with USAC. USAC is also continuing efforts to establish data sharing agreements with additional federal agencies. The National Verifier will be launched in all states and territories by December 2019. I am confident that the launch of the National Verifier will be a major step in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, but where the Commission can improve processes even before the National Verifier is launched, it has a responsibility to do so.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

Enclosure